

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
January 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: 6:29 p.m.

INVOCATION: Father Paul Anderson – First Presbyterian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Miano and Mrs. Uzelac were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

2016 - MERRILLVILLE TOWN COUNCIL BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:

STANDING COMMITTEES:
BUDGET & FINANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
Pettit, Chairman
Barron
Uzelac

PUBLIC WORKS

Spann, Chairman
LaMarca
Pettit

COUNCIL AFFAIRS

Uzelac, Chairwoman
Barron
LaMarca

PERSONNEL POLICY &
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Barron, Chairwoman
LaMarca
Uzelac

PUBLIC SAFETY

Uzelac, Chairwoman
Pettit
Spann

PARKS & RECREATION

LaMarca, Chairwoman
Barron
Uzelac

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Barron, Chairwoman
Pettit
Uzelac

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS
*Town Parade Committee member

LaMarca, Chairwoman
Barron
Orlich
Spires
*John Petalas

SPECIAL BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Pettit, Chairman
Barron
Uzelac
Bryan Lazorik, Chamber Pres.
Sue Reed, Exe. Dir., MCC

UTILITY LIAISONS

Barron, Chairwoman
Miano
Spann

ABANDONED BLIGHTED PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

Hardaway, Chairman
Guernsey
Spann

LAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Barron

NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL
PLAN COMMISSION

Hardaway

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	Barron Hardaway LaMarca Pettit Uzelac
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	Minchuk Olthof Ward
PLAN COMMISSION	Barron Bigelow Dering Hotlz LaMarca Palmateer Pettit
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS	Bigelow Fortier Holtz Minchuk Stojakovich
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD	Crist Ghoston Simek
POLICE COMMISSION	Guip Kennedy Ward
FIRE TERRITORY BOARD	Spann Spires

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated January 12, 2016. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to defer the Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2015 & January 1, 2016 until the next Council meeting scheduled January 26, 2016. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Spann mentioned the poor road conditions due to the lack of snow plowing on Broadway. He stated that Broadway is maintained and plowed by the State. Discussion followed.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac was absent, no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron said she wants to schedule a meeting and discuss the Town of Merrillville insurance.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Barron reminded residents of the ordinance in place that prohibits on-street parking after 2 inches or more of snow falls. If vehicles are found in violation of the ordinance they can be ticketed or towed.

Chief Yerga stated that the Fire Station located 18 W 73rd Ave is available 24 hours if needed as a warming center. He also mentioned that if the need arises due to extreme weather conditions they would make additional Fire Stations available.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca stated the Fourth of July parade will take place on the date of July 4, 2016 and not on July 3rd. Ms. Orlich said the Park Department has taken on snow plowing and maintaining the bike trails. She also discussed the changes and updates related to a new software program that the Parks Department is incorporating. Ms. Orlich went on to provide the Council with further updates related to Park programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron had no report. Mr. Lake stated that he was selected to present at a drainage conference on February 18, 2016 in West Lafayette at the Sheraton Four Points. He went on to provide further Stormwater updates.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit mentioned there is an Economic Development Committee meeting on Monday, January 18th at 5:30 p.m. to hear a tax abatement petition.

UTILITY LIAISON: Mrs. Barron had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Mr. Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-01: An Ordinance authorizing the Town of Merrillville, Indiana (the “Issuer”), to issue up to \$19,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its Town of Merrillville, Indiana Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Belvedere Housing Project), Series 2016 (the “Bonds”) in one or more series and approving and authorizing other actions in respect thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend the rule on the second reading and allow for it to take place at today’s meeting. Mr. Spann seconded the motion to suspend the rules. The motion to suspend the rule for second reading was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 16-01: An Ordinance authorizing the Town of Merrillville, Indiana (the “Issuer”), to issue up to \$19,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its Town of Merrillville, Indiana Economic Development Revenue Bonds (Belvedere Housing Project), Series 2016 (the “Bonds”) in one or more series and approving and authorizing other actions in respect thereto. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. Public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 16-01: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing temporary loans to fulfill monetary requirements necessary for debt service payments (retroactive to 1-08-16). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Res. 16-02: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana authorizing the transfer of excess funds (retroactive to 1-08-16). Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Abandoned Blighted Properties meeting, January 13, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.
Congressman Visclosky Town Hall meeting, January 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 18, 2016
Economic Development Committee meeting, January 18, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Town Council workshop, January 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
Plan Commission meeting, January 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.
Stormwater Management Board meeting, January 19, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
Environmental Resource Committee meeting, January 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Town Council meeting, January 26, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pettit and seconded by Mrs. Barron.